1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	Udaipur	40.2	39.1	36.0	33.3	30.1
29	Rajsamand	12	12.7	12.8	10.2	8.9
30	Baran	11.1	10.5	10.4	9.6	9.1
31	Dosa	21.6	21.6	23.3	25.0	21.7
32	Hanumangarh	14.7	14.3	15.2	16.3	14.9
33	Ajmer (P.H.)	-	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5
34	Alwar (P.H.)	-	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1
35	Jaipur (UEIGB)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
36	Jodhpur (UEIGB)	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6
37	Udaipur (UEIGB)	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
38	Bikaner (UEIGB)		0.3	0.6	0.8	0.9
	TOTAL	886.9	873.8	891.2	840.0	791.0

NOTE : Total may not tally due to rounding.

Consumer Protection in the Country

*547. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 14th July, 2001, under the caption, "Consumer Protection only on Paper";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems raised in the news-item so as to provide effective and meaningful consumer protection in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report on the study of the State-wise performance of the consumer disputes redressal agencies referred to in the news-item has come to the notice

of Government. The Consumer movement is an ongoing process, which is gaining momentum. Continuous efforts are being made by the Government to make people aware of their rights as consumers. Publicity programmes through audio, video and print media have been undertaken by the Government to spread consumer awareness throughout the country. Finacial assistance is also provided to eligible voluntary consumer organizations to undertake activities for promoting consumer awareness. As a result, the number of voluntary consumer organizations and also the number of complaints filed with the consumer disputes redressal agencies have significantly increased.

(c) The disposal of cases filed with consumer disputes redressal agencies is affected mainly by the inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments, vacancies in posts of the President/Member, etc. To remove these constraints, some of the important steps taken by the Central Government are as follows :—

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies, the Central Government has provided a One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores to the States/UTs.

(ii) Monitoring of working of consumer disputes redressal agencies through the National Commission.

(iii) States and Union Territories have been requested to take prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer disputes redressal agencies.

(iv) State and UT Governments are requested from time to time to take steps for ensuring the smooth functioning and monitoring of the consumer disputes redressal agencies.

(v) Amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder to facilitate quicker disposal of cases by the redressal agencies.

Transportation of wheat from Punjab and Haryana

*548. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat transported out of Punjab and Haryana in the months of March, April and May during 1998, 1999 and 2000;